

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03913 150927Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-09 DOTE-00
/128 W

-----096262 151306Z /53

R 150833Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6306
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, SW, NO
SUBJECT: NO DELAY IN VOLVO DEAL

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 3102, B) OSLO 2506

1. REPORTS IN THE SWEDISH PRESS (REF A) THAT SUBMISSION
TO THE NORWEGIAN STORTING OF THE GON'S PROPOSAL ON THE
PURCHASE OF A 40 PERCENT SHARE IN VOLVO WILL BE DELAYED
ARE NOT REPEAT NOT CORRECT. AS REPORTED (REF B), THE
GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SUBMIT A WHITE PAPER GIVING DETAILS
OF ITS PROPOSAL TO THE STORTING IN MID-OCTOBER AND INDUSTRY
MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY OLAF MUELLER CONFIRMED TO US AUGUST 14
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THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THIS PLAN. THE ONLY QUOTE
POSTPONEMENT UNQUOTE WITH WHICH ANYONE IS FAMILIAR IN OSLO IS THE
REQUEST MADE TO PRIME MINISTER NORDLI LAST JUNE BY THREE OPPOSITION
PARTIES THAT A STORTING DECISION ON THE WHITE PAPER NOT BE CALLED
FOR BY DECEMBER 1978, BUT THAT, TO LEAVE ADEQUATE TIME
FOR THE RATHER SENSITIVE BUDGET DEBATE THIS FALL, THE
DECISION BE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1979 INSTEAD.

2. AS TO THE QUOTE MOUNTING SKEPTICISM IN NORWAY
UNQUOTE ABOUT THIS DEAL, WE THINK IT IS STILL TOO EARLY
TO SAY ANYTHING USEFUL. THERE HAS UNQUESTIONABLY BEEN
SKEPTICISM HERE SINCE THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS
ANNOUNCED IN MAY. HOWEVER, AT THAT TIME RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
GENERALLY SAID THEY WOULD WAIT FOR MID-OCTOBER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF
DETAILS BEFORE MAKING JUDGMENTS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, OF COURSE,
THAT THE LABOR PARTY IS NOT COMMITTED TO THE AGREEMENT
AS EVIDENCE OF ITS ASTUTE HANDLING OF NORWAY'S OIL RE-
VENUES OR THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES DO NOT SEE AN
OPPORTUNITY HERE TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL HAY IF
THE AGREEMENT TURNS OUT NOT TO BE SOLIDLY ADVANTAGEOUS
TO NORWAY. BUT WE PREFER TO RESERVE FURTHER COMMENT ON
THE LIKELY IMPACT OF THE ARRANGEMENT ON THE NORWEGIAN
ECONOMY AND THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE UNTIL THE WHITE PAPER
HAS GONE TO THE STORTING AND THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS
IS PROPERLY UNDERWAY.
BREMER

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Message Attributes

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